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Identical letters dated 26 November 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On behalf of my Government, in its capacity as Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, I have the honour to transmit a joint communiqué dated 21 November 2012, issued following a meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda to address the security and humanitarian situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Arthur S. **Kafeero**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 26 November 2012 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué

Kampala, 21 November 2012

President Yoweri Musevini of Uganda, Chair of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been in a closed meeting in Kampala since the evening of Tuesday, 20 November.

The three Heads of State have discussed how to address the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo after the capture of Goma, the capital of North Kivu Province by the M23 rebel group.

In solidarity with the Congolese people, President Museveni and President Kagame made it clear that even if there were legitimate grievances by the mutinying group known as M23, they cannot accept the expansion of this war or entertain the idea of overthrowing the legitimate Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or undermining its authority. Therefore, the M23 rebel group must immediately stop its offensive, and pull out of Goma. A plan to that end has been communicated to them.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for its part, has made a commitment to look expeditiously into the causes of discontent and to address them as best as it can.

Furthermore, a comprehensive and operational plan geared towards lasting peace and stability will be drawn up as a matter of urgency.

The three Heads of State welcomed the support of the Secretary-General of the United Nations who dispatched a personal emissary to meet them and discuss the matter.